

# REPORT

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

### Week ending the 3rd June 1905.

#### CONTENTS.

	Page.		Page.
<b>I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.</b>		<b>(A)—General—</b>	
The question of Indian defence ...	535	Maulvi Abdul Mamin, Assistant Settlement Officer, Backergunge ...	539
The Kabul Mission ...	ib.	The Arms Act ...	540
The Kabul Mission ...	ib.	The labour question in India ...	541
The Kabul Mission ...	ib.	Mr. Carey ...	ib.
The Kabul Mission ...	ib.	Mr. Carey ...	ib.
An appeal for peace in the Far East ...	ib.	License for a breech-loading fowling-piece refused to a zamindar ...	542
Musalmans of Circassia massacred by Armenians ...	ib.	The Government Resolution on the Rolt case ...	ib.
<b>II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.</b>		Postal complaints ...	ib.
<b>(a)—Police—</b>		Land acquisition in Hare Street and Council House Street ...	ib.
A case of alleged outrage on a female in Bankura ...	536	The alleged contrariety between Lord Kitchener and General Elles ...	ib.
A cooly case ...	ib.	Employment of more and more Europeans and Eurasians in the lower grades of the public service ...	ib.
<b>(b)—Working of the Courts—</b>		Two whimsical Civilians ...	543
A complaint against the Subdivisional Officer of Kushtia ...	536	A suggestion for reducing the commission for telegraphic money-orders ...	ib.
Mr. Justice Rampani in a Full Bench case ...	537	A lunatic asylum at Berhampur ...	ib.
The tramway conductor's case ...	ib.	<b>III.—LEGISLATION.</b>	
The Rolt case ...	ib.	The habit of smoking among the Indian students ...	543
The Midnapore Road Cess office ...	538	<b>IV.—NATIVE STATES.</b>	
<b>(c)—Jails—</b>		Nil.	
Oppression in the Sylhet Jail ...	538	<b>V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.</b>	
<b>(d)—Education—</b>		Apprehended scarcity in portions of Khulna ...	543
The Comilla students' case ...	538	<b>VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.</b>	
<b>(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—</b>		The national awakening in India ...	543
Nil.		Lord Curzon as an awakener of national life in India ...	544
<b>(f)—Questions affecting the land—</b>		The question of earthquake relief ...	545
Nil.		An Agriculturists' Loan Fund in Chittagong ...	546
<b>(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—</b>		Mr. Balfour on the Calcutta protest meeting ...	ib.
Allegations against the station staff at Magra, East Indian Railway ...	539	The Parliamentary crisis ...	ib.
A railway complaint ...	ib.	Opium gambling in the Punjab ...	ib.
		The feeling of the cultivating classes of India ...	ib.
		The improvement of the condition of the agriculturists ...	547
		A protest meeting in England and Lord Curzon's Convocation speech ...	ib.
		Lord Curzon's administration ...	ib.
		Lord Curzon's interpretation of the Queen's Proclamation ...	ib.
		Removal of idols from the Darbar Saheb in Amritsar ...	548



URIYA PAPERS.		Page.
The weather and the health of Balasore town	...	548
The claims of the domiciled Bengali community in Orissa	...	ib.
The weather and the health of Balasore	...	ib.
Cholera in Mayurbhanj	...	ib.
The Pleaders of Bagerhat and the Association for the Promotion of Industrial and scientific Education among Indians	...	ib.
The health of Talcher	...	ib.
A fire in Hindol	...	ib.
The Raja of Talcher's donation to the Ravenshaw College Hindu Hostel	...	ib.
The want of drinking-water along the Dhenkanal-Angul Road	...	549
The last collection of land revenue in Cuttack	...	ib.

URIYA PAPERS—concl'd.		Page.
In praise of Mr. Fischer and Mr. Growae	...	549
Gun-licenses in Cuttack	...	ib.
The weather	...	ib.
Chicken-pox at Deuli	...	ib.
Cattle-mortality in Cuttack	...	ib.
The weather in Jajpur	...	ib.
The Raja of Nayagarh	...	ib.
The Mukti Mandap Sabha at Puri	...	ib.
A complaint against tahsil punchayets in Orissa	...	550

## ASSAM PAPERS.

Nil.



## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 27th May says that there is a class of people who think that Afghanistan is strong enough to guard India from a Russian invasion. But they are mistaken. If in Russia the internal disturbances are brought to an end, the interests of the people are made to coincide with those of their Sovereign, and popular institutions are established, then there will come into existence in that country an energy and spirit before which a handful of Afghans will never be able to hold their ground. And what would 2½ lakhs of white soldiers in India do against 15 lakhs of Russian soldiers? India can be defended by the Indians alone. If they support the English, the British Indian Empire will never be conquered. The English, however, suspect the Indians and refuse to place arms in their hands, forgetting that the British Indian Empire will not last long if the natives are not trained in the military art. If the Indians sink, they will draw Englishmen behind and both will perish.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
May 27th, 1905.

2. In reference to the Kabul Mission, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 27th May observes that the Kabul Mission has raised the Amir of Kabul to a dignity almost equal to that of King Edward VII. Although the text of the treaty has been published, yet as the terms which were agreed upon with the late Amir are unknown to the public, it is still a secret. The people are laughing at the insignificant result of a Mission which has cost so much labour and money.

BHARAT MITRA,  
May 27th, 1905.

3. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 29th May suspects that Mr. Dane having not been successful in securing the object of the Mission, full particulars have not been allowed to see the light of day. The Mission has acknowledged the Amir as the independent King of Afghanistan and its dependencies. This shows that he can now have direct communications with the British Government in England—a privilege which the late Amir had asked of Her late Majesty the Queen-Empress of India through his son, Prince Nusrulla Khan, but without success. The present Amir has been able to secure it without much trouble.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
May 29th, 1905.

4. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 28th May says that there is nothing new in the new treaty with Afghanistan, except the fact that the Amir has been acknowledged as an independent Sovereign. This is all that the Kabul Mission has been able to do after wasting a good deal of public money. Is this the outcome of Lord Curzon's statesmanship? The Peace Mission to Tibet and the Political Mission to Kabul have done their work, and it remains to be seen what comes of the Commercial Mission to Persia.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
May 28th, 1905.

5. The *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 29th May has the following:—

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-  
DAS HABLUL MATEEN,  
May 29th, 1905.

The English papers are adversely criticizing the conduct of Mr. Dane, who went to Kabul as the head of the British Mission and has achieved nothing beyond conferring the title of King upon the Amir, whereas his duties were to forbid the Amir from importing arms and ammunition and from interfering in questions affecting the frontier tribes. But fortunately the disability of the Amir to open political relations with any other Power remains intact. The disputes which might arise between him and his neighbours should be referred to British arbitration.

An English paper says that Mr. Dane has acted very wisely in not investing the Amir with any political powers along with the title of King. As the Amir has no power to create political relations with other foreign Powers, he is no better than an Indian Feudatory Chief.

6. The same paper appeals to the European Powers to stop the shedding of further blood by bringing about a compromise between Russia and Japan.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-  
DAS HABLUL MATEEN.

7. The same paper notices the riot which broke out in Circassia between the Armenian Christians and Musalmans, and says that the Armenians are at the root of the evil.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-  
DAS HABLUL MATEEN.



## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
May 23rd, 1905.

8. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 23rd May draws the attention

A case of alleged outrage on a female in Bankura.

of the Lieutenant-Governor to the facts of the following case, which are stated by a correspondent in its columns. It is alleged that on a certain night, about the end of the month of *Chaitra* last, a married lady of highly respectable connections living in village Indas in the district of Bankura was on her way to her father's home situated in another part of the same village from her husband's. When she was in the vicinity of the Indas thana premises she was waylaid by certain members of the police force and their neighbours and ravished. The lady thereafter made her way to the thana, and after stating her complaint, prayed to the head of the thana for legal redress. The police recorded a charge of "rape" in the thana diary, and a copy of this entry in the diary was sent in due course to the District Superintendent of Police. Meanwhile, however, the local police displayed supineness in regard to the carrying on of this inquiry. The District Superintendent accordingly came to the spot to see things for himself, as a result of which Asutosh Ghosh, the thana daffadar, and a number of constables subordinate to him have been removed from the service.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
May 30th, 1905.

9. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th May has the following:—

A cooly case.

We are informed that the youthful sister of a *goala* named Jugul Mahato of village Koldihi, in the Karo taluk in the Deoghar subdivision of the Sonthal Parganas district, has been sent to a tea-plantation through the machinations of an *arkati*. Jugul writes to us:—"Two of my relatives resident in village Gunduva took away my sister for the alleged purpose of enabling her to select a bridegroom for herself. For a time we remained without any anxiety at her absence from home. Shortly after I received a letter, postage unpaid, addressed to me by my sister from the Kalighat tea-estate in district Sylhet. This letter informed me that I had lost my sister for good. My mother in her old age hearing of this distress which had befallen her daughter, has been thrown into the deepest melancholy and is passing whole days and nights in tears. I send the letter to you for publication that it might attract the notice of the authorities." This letter is dated from the Kalighat tea-estate, Kalighat post office, district Sylhet. The writer, who signs herself Maynamoni Mahatoni, proceeds after the usual salutations to inform her elder brother that one Sital Prasad Tewari of Giridih, after having made many efforts to have her in his keeping, enticed her and sold her as a "free" (?) cooly at the Ballygunge cooly depôt. She had wished to raise objections at the time of registration, but she was *challaned* as a "free" (?) cooly without being registered anywhere. She finally appealed to her brother to take some steps for her rescue, as she had been sent there without any agreement and could therefore obtain leave to go back home.

We inquire, how much longer will this sort of slave-trade be allowed to continue in India? Will these *arkati* oppressions never cease? Will nothing be done to redress the wrong inflicted on Maynamoni by her being *challaned* by the *arkatis* as a "free" (?) cooly? Is the Government unable to redress cases of oppression like these? Will not the police undertake an inquiry in the present case and bring the *arkatis* implicated in it to book? We trust the Chief Commissioner of Assam will evince an interest in the rescue of poor Maynamoni.

## (b)—Working of the Courts.

SOLTAN,  
May 26th, 1905.

10. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 26th May notices in the following terms

A complaint against the Sub-divisional Officer of Kushtia.

the reported action of the Subdivisional Officer of Kushtia in Nadia in trying to arrange for a compromise in the cases which recently came before his Court in connection with the exhibition by certain Hindus of Chandpur and Kumarkhali of living caricatures which were alleged to have wounded the religious susceptibilities of the local Musalmans [see



Report on Native Papers for the week ending the 27th May 1905, paragraph 18 (2)]:—

We are astounded at the race partiality which this action of the Deputy Magistrate's illustrates. Can a terrible offence like the present be settled by arbitration? The fire of the Musalman's wrath would not be quenched even if the heads of these sinners were broken at once by kicks or by being struck with slippers, or even if their bodies, when alive, were made the food of dogs. Content cannot be restored to the Musalman's mind even if their vile bodies were first burned in the fire and then thrown into a privy. The Musalmans of Nadia do not possess the burning glow of Islam. If the Hindus had been guilty of a similar offence in Dacca or some other place in East Bengal, there can be no doubt that the sinful heads of these sinners would have been rolling about on the ground.

To those educated Hindus who wish to save India by promoting the unity of Hindus and Musalmans, we appeal to take notice of the devilish doings of their co-religionists of Nadia.

11. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 27th May says that on the 20th idem, a case came up for hearing before a Full Bench of the Calcutta High Court. But before the advocates of the contending parties had finished their arguments, Mr. Justice Rampini delivered his judgment, which he must have written some time before. If this state of things goes on in the High Court, where will people go for justice?

DAILY HITAVADI,  
May 27th, 1905.

Mr. Justice Rampini in a Full Bench case.

12. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 29th May writes as follows in English, in reference to the recent tramway conductor's case in Calcutta:—

DACCA GAZETTE,  
May 29th, 1905.

The tramway conductor's case.

It seems that both the Joint Magistrate and the Judge have seriously erred in this case, and the public are not at all satisfied with their judgments. As the whole case hinges on the "fearful blow," and as there is no conclusive proof that the blow was ever inflicted by the accused, he ought to have been given the benefit of the doubt and acquitted.

Judgments like these have a very bad moral effect. They simply encourage Europeans to treat the natives in any way they like and confirm the belief of the people that in a case between a native and a European, the native cannot expect justice; besides, they create dissatisfaction among the people, bring discredit upon the British administration of justice, and, last of all, widen the gulf between the rulers and the ruled.

13. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 31st May writes:—

DAILY HITAVADI,  
May 31st, 1905.

The Rolt case.

What was Mr. Rolt accused of? The principal charge brought against him was that as Manager of the Khagra estate he had accepted a bribe at the time of the purchase of a *patni taluk*. Mr. Rolt made the estate pay Rs. 15,000 in buying an estate which was worth Rs. 8,000. Is not this enough to create in men's minds suspicion of any sort? What would the *Statesman* and the *Englishman* have said if a native manager of a Court of Wards' estate had wasted the money of that estate in this fashion? Of course Mr. Justice Henderson has not held Mr. Rolt personally responsible for this affair. His Lordship's idea is that it was the work of Mr. Rolt's subordinates, and that Mr. Rolt was bound to assent to it through ignorance of the real value of the estate. Accepting this finding of Mr. Justice Henderson's as correct, while it may be held to exonerate Mr. Rolt from the charge of accepting bribes, does it not equally indicate incompetence and a serious inattention to the correct performance of his duties? Is he not primarily responsible for this waste of the estate's money, as its manager. We wish our Anglo-Indian contemporaries to return a direct answer to this question.

Then, as regards the result of the Inquiry Commission, our Anglo-Indian contemporaries hold that Mr. Rolt's character was proved to be without a stain. But we see that all that the Commission declare is that none of the six charges against Mr. Rolt into which they inquired was proved on the evidence produced before them. Nobody can conclude from the fact that the offence with which a man is charged is not proved in a trial before a Court that that man's character is absolutely stainless. Another thing is, unless there were satisfactory reasons for bringing the charges against



Mr. Rolt, why should *all* the high-placed officials like the District Magistrate, the Divisional Commissioner and the Legal Remembrancer support the idea of prosecuting him? It may be true that Mr. Rolt has been proved not guilty in Court, but in our opinion that does not justify one in saying that there were no sufficient reasons to place him on his trial at all.

The fact is that Government has made a most regrettable mistake by offering damages to Mr. Rolt. The Lieutenant-Governor made this concession to Mr. Rolt at the expense of the Khagra estate without adequate forethought simply in order to please the Anglo-Indian community.

MEDINI BANDHAY,  
May 31st, 1905.

14. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 31st May makes the following allegations in connection with the Road Cess office at Midnapore:—

The Midnapore Road Cess office.

- (1) Warrants are sometimes being issued against persons who, so far as regards the present proprietor, lived three generations back. These mistakes are not due to any default in the mutation of names;
- (2) Warrants are sometimes being issued against the same co-sharer more than once, and often against a co-sharer who has already paid up the cess due for his share; and, lastly,
- (3) Warrants are sometimes said to be issued against persons who do not possess a foot of land under the jurisdiction of this district.

(c)—Jails.

BHARAT MITRA,  
May 27th, 1905.

15. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 27th May, in quoting a complaint that has appeared in the *Paridarsak* of Sylhet, says that the prisoners of the Sylhet Jail have been reduced to the condition of bullocks, each of them being required to work in the oil-mills till three and-a-half seers of oil have been pressed—a quantity representing a whole day's work for a well-fed bullock. On the 13th instant, two prisoners while driving the oil-press fell down through exhaustion. During April last, another prisoner is reported to have been killed by overwork. Will the Jail authorities, who do not like to see a prisoner die of a disease, like to see them die in this way in the jail?

Oppression in the Sylhet Jail.

(d)—Education.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,  
May 30th, 1905.

16. The *Tripura Hitaiishi* [Comilla] of the 30th May appeals to the Chittagong Divisional Union to take notice of the action of the authorities in the matter of the expulsion of certain students from the Comilla Zilla School. These boys were held guilty, although their guardians were not allowed to speak on their behalf and the inquiry was conducted in private, mainly on the strength of anonymous letters. The Committee which deliberated on the punishment which was to be awarded to the boys, was composed of Government officials with one exception. No one likely to give an independent opinion was taken in on it. And rumour has it that the opinion of the majority of this Committee, such as it was, was not accepted. The Divisional Commissioner set it aside and suggested the rustication of 29 or 30 lads, a suggestion which was accepted by Government and acted on. Such high-handedness is almost unparalleled in the British dominions. Everybody takes this action to mean that the intention of Government is to abolish high education from the country altogether. It was hitherto the idea of the public that one of the maxims followed by the British Government was that it was better that 99 offenders should escape rather than that one innocent man should suffer; but that idea has been changed by these events. What never was and what was not even thought possible is now going to happen. Should not persons who support the action of the authorities in the present case be looked upon as traitors to their own country and people? Such things would never have been permitted to happen if the Inspector of Schools for this Division had been a European. Certainly the Divisional Commissioner would never have dared to interfere in this matter in that case. Has the Chittagong Divisional Union no duties to discharge in regard to this

The Comilla students' case.



case? Let all the Associations of Chittagong, Noakhali and Tippera combine and set up an agitation on this subject.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

17. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 26th May complains that certain members of the station staff at Magra, on the East Indian Railway, have been for some time past assuming an overbearing, oppressive and unrestrained attitude in their treatment of passengers. Reference is made in the first place to the humiliation and harassment to which the Sub-Registrar of Dhaniakhali, a Musalman of high birth, was recently subjected at the hands of these station officials. As a second illustration, the following case is given:—

DAILY HITAVADI,  
May 26th, 1905.

Allegations against the station staff at Magra, East Indian Railway.

On the night of the 14th May last, Babu Jogendra Kumar Singh, a Deputy Magistrate of Ranchi, on his way to Arambagh in Hooghly on transfer, had occasion to alight at the Magra station. He was travelling with his wife, a young girl, an infant boy, and two servants. As soon as he alighted at the station, he was taken to task by Mr. C. C. Chatterjee, Assistant Station Master, and one or two other employes for having travelled with one full ticket instead of two half tickets for his boy and girl. The Deputy Magistrate, although he had once paid the fare, offered to pay it over again. But seeing that his acquiescence only led these railway officials to offer further insults, he ultimately withdrew his offer. Thereupon, it is alleged, the railway staff themselves proceeded to arrest the Deputy Magistrate and his party. After he and his wife and children had continued under their custody for some hours, a constable came from the Hooghly thana, whither a wire had been sent by the railway officials, to escort the Deputy and his wife late at night to that thana. The Inspector of the Railway Police, when he came to know that the accused in the case was a Deputy Magistrate, who has been insulted and harassed in many ways, at once proceeded to Magra thana and there put in a charge against C. C. Chatterjee of having placed a passenger under wrongful confinement.

A third illustration is mentioned as follows. When the 7-35 train arrived at Magra station on the morning of the 18th May last, the Assistant Station Master was seen attending to the complaints of two up-country passengers. They complained that the station coolies had forcibly made them alight from their carriage. The coolies' version of the case was that they had simply prevented the passengers from boarding the train when it was already in motion. The Assistant Station Master, on hearing the coolies' explanation, ordered the passengers to quit the platform. The passengers pleaded that they had already purchased their tickets and therefore the Station Master's order to them to quit the platform was illegal. The Assistant Station Master was highly incensed at their protest and immediately retorted with a "*sala lokko nikal deo.*" And a number of coolies who were present on the spot immediately carried out this order, accompanying the expulsion with a number of good blows on the persons of these poor passengers.

18. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 27th May says that though the part of the East Indian Railway line between Serampur and Seorafuli passes through the populous village Chatra, there is neither a level-crossing gate nor a jamadar at the place. Railway accidents are consequently frequent there. On the 24th May last, a woman was run over by a train and immediately killed. Students have to cross the railway line in going to school. Carriages, etc., have to make a long detour in order to cross the line. The Railway authorities are therefore requested to construct a gate at the place and appoint a jamadar to guard it.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
May 27th, 1905.

A railway complaint.

(h)—*General.*

19. The *Barisal Hitashi* [Barisal] of the 24th May highly praises Maulvi Abdul Mamin, Assistant Settlement Officer in charge of the Solak attestation camp in the Backergunge district, for his whole-hearted and generous devotion to the work of helping sick villagers with medicines, etc., during the severe outbreak of cholera within

Maulvi Abdul Mamin, Assistant Settlement Officer, Backergunge.

BARISAL HITASHI,  
May 24th, 1905



his jurisdiction last winter. A public meeting was recently held in the Solak village for expressing gratitude to the Maulvi for his philanthropic labours. May God bless him!

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-ANANDA  
BAZAR PATRIKA,  
May 25th, 1905.

20. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 25th May writes:—

The Arms Act.

There are many good points in the British government of India, but distrust and consequent illiberality is one of the principal defects of its present policy. It is strange indeed that our rulers after all their long experience of this country have not yet come to understand the true character of its people. The people of India, if they were given the rights and privileges of Englishmen and were treated as their equals, would not be willing even for a moment to exchange King Edward VII for any other ruler. It is a mistake on the part of the Indian Government to regard the Indians as ungovernable as the people of Europe, who with their ideas of individualism are always at strife with their constituted Governments. The Indian Government seems unable to place confidence in the loyalty of its native subjects. But there is nothing in their past conduct to justify this suspicion on the part of Government.

Whatever Government may say as to the reasons which in its view justify the existence of an Arms Act in India, the thoughtful sections of the native community are unanimous in the opinion that the intention of Government in passing that Act was to deprive the Indians of their arms. It may be that this opinion is mistaken, but it must be admitted to be natural if we consider the stringency with which certain District Magistrates are now enforcing that Act.

The Indians are a peaceful people by nature, who have never in the whole course of their history attempted to offer any organised resistance to the ruling power. Such being the facts, we cannot imagine what can be the necessity of disarming them. We nowadays notice that Magistrates in many cases are unwilling to grant gun-licenses. There is first the case of Mr. Carey, to which we need not refer at present. Then, again, take the case in Mymensingh, where a man who had hitherto possessed a license for a muzzle-loader, applied to have it changed for a breech-loader, but who had his request refused by the District Magistrate on the ground that there were already far too many licenses for breech-loaders granted in that district.

We cannot understand a refusal on such grounds. Is there any risk of a revolution in the country occurring as a result of too many people possessing breach-loaders? What is the good of keeping the people without arms in this fashion? Uncivilized and excitable people are never prevented for want of arms from creating strife.

We cannot say how far theft and dacoities have decreased under British rule. But considering the terrible cases of theft and dacoity which even now sometimes occur in the heart of the metropolis and in its suburbs, it is not unnatural to conclude that crime of these particular descriptions is on the increase. The blood-curdling affairs which are sometimes perpetrated by ruffianly dacoits in the villages are such that even a perusal of the accounts given of such occurrences in newspapers is enough to make the reader shake with terror. Under the circumstances, is it not conducive to the cause of the public peace to allow guns to be possessed by peaceful citizens?

We have also to consider that at the present time the neighbourhood of many villages is infested by wild boars, tigers, bears, mad jackals and the like, which oftentimes keep the villagers in such terror as to prevent them after dusk from issuing from the closed doors of their homes even to go to the nearest field on the most urgent business. As illustration we might point to the case of the village of Manik Bazar in Bankura, in the neighbourhood of which a man-eating tiger has established itself, with the result that after dusk traffic of all sorts has to be suspended on the Sonamukhi Road.

We understand that Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose recently proposed to raise this question of gun-licenses in the Legislative Council, but that he refrained from doing so, as he was informed that Government would soon remove the inconveniences complained of.



21. In connexion with the letter recently addressed by the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, to the Government of Bengal on the question of the supply of labour, the same paper writes:—

Of all the causes which have been referred to in this letter, as operating to produce a scarcity of labour, the one which is fourth in order of mention seems in our opinion the most important. This is that employers of labour "are not always sufficiently alive to the need for adopting certain necessary precautions in order to keep their men after recruiting." Employers of coolies are almost wholly Europeans. And Europeans do not look upon native coolies as human beings at all. They do not show towards their dependent coolies a hundredth part of the care and affection which they would show to one of their domestic pet animals. If they did, then perhaps native coolies would not have been so very afraid to serve under Europeans. Government of course has veiled these sentiments in a cloak of diplomatic language. But it is our idea that they had better been expressed in plain terms.

Nobody needs to be told of the terrible and pathetic cases of oppression which occur in connexion with the recruitment of coolies for the Assam tea-plantations. Nothing except the direst necessity of earning his daily bread will drive the coolie who has heard of these stories of oppression to leave his home for service elsewhere. It is a great mistake to suppose, as Government does, "that the labourers as a class are ignorant of the advantage which they would derive from accepting service in the larger commercial centres."

There can be no doubt that by bestirring itself in the present matter, the Government will earn the thanks of the mercantile community. But we dare to draw attention to the necessity on the part of Government of being on its guard that in trying to help the employers of labour, the risks to the unfortunate coolie are not increased. Government should speak out in plain terms and tell the European employers of labour that they must not ill-treat these distressed and starving coolies as beasts. Will Government be kind enough to impress on employers of labour the superior efficacy of kindness and good-will over cruelty as a motive power to get work out of others?

22. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 26th May writes:—

Mr. Carey.

We are glad to notice that Sir A. Fraser has punished Mr. Carey by degrading him to the rank of a Joint-Magistrate. A few days ago, Mr. Carey was summoned to Darjeeling by the Lieutenant-Governor to explain his conduct. That his explanations did not satisfy His Honour is clear from this order of his degradation and transfer. If Mr. Carey even now shows any improvement in his temper, then can we congratulate ourselves that both our agitations and Sir A. Fraser's punishment of him have borne fruit.

23. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 26th May writes:—

Mr. Carey.

There can be no doubt that Sir A. Fraser has earned the thanks of the entire Bengal public by awarding proper punishment to Messrs. Carey and Shout of Hooghly. Considering the quite unnatural amount of care which the authorities in this country nowadays display in preserving the prestige of the official classes, we cannot help praising Sir A. Fraser for his action in the present case. It is our firm belief that the fate of Messrs. Carey and Shout is sure to act as a warning to other hot-headed and whimsical officials.

We notice that some of our Anglo-Indian contemporaries are expressing the opinion that Mr. Carey's punishment is unduly severe compared with his offences. We, however, cannot regard Mr. Carey's offences as light ones. Certainly his offences cannot at all be regarded in that favourable light when we consider that his action tarnished the fair name of British rule in this country, that he being the officer responsible for the life and property of the subjects, insulted without provocation the most respectable citizens, and that instead of preventing acts of oppression he himself committed such acts. We cannot therefore admit that Mr. Carey's punishment has been unduly severe.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRINCE-OF-ANANDA  
BASAR PATRIKA,  
May 26th, 1905.

HITAVADI,  
May 26th, 1905

DAILY HITAVADI,  
May 26th, 1905.



**BEHARATMITRA,**  
May 27th, 1905.

24. In noticing the case in which the Magistrate of Mymensingh rejected the application of a zamindar of the district for a license to keep a breech-loading fowling piece instead of a muzzle-loading one, for which he had license, on the ground of there already being many breech-loading guns in the district, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 27th May asks :—

Does the Magistrate think that the people will attack him with these guns or plunder the Government treasury ?

**DAILY HITAVADI,**  
May 27th, 1905.

The Government Resolution on the Rolt case.

25. Referring to the Bengal Government Resolution on the Rolt case, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 27th May says that it is no wonder that the Lieutenant-Governor should try to hide the faults of his subordinates. But a study of this lengthy Resolution also leads one to think that, according to His Honour, it is the Khagra people who are to blame for all that has happened, else, why has he maintained silence on the point of the compensation given to Mr. Rolt from the Khagra estate? In short, while all the European actors in the affair have been exculpated, the poor tenants of the estate have been obliged to pay a fine to Mr. Rolt.

**DAILY HITAVADI,**  
May 28th, 1905.

Postal complaints.

26. A correspondent of the same paper of the 28th May prays for the establishment of a post office in the Lamchar village under the Sahapur post office, which is at a distance of four miles, in the Noakhali district. Daily, weekly, and bi-weekly newspapers regularly come to the village by post, and the villagers have to undergo great inconvenience and cost in regularly taking delivery of these newspapers, etc., from the Sahapur post office. A peon should at least be engaged for making a daily delivery at the village. The Calcutta mail for Sahapur formerly used to come through the *sadar* post office. But now it comes *via* Sonaimurhi station. In consequence of this change the mail is delayed for nearly six hours, and the mail of Saturday is delivered on Tuesday following.

**DAILY HITAVADI.**

27. The same paper strongly objects to the proposal made by the Government of India to acquire land in Hare Street and Council House Street in Calcutta for constructing buildings for Government officers and quarters for Government officials. Office buildings should be constructed only in those parts of the town where land is cheap. Public money should not be wasted in buying land for the purpose at a high price in such places as Hare Street and Council House Street. Again, it is incomprehensible how construction of buildings for the residence of officials can fall within the category of public works. Why, again, should Government offices be necessarily situated near the Government House? The Viceroy lives in Simla for seven months in the year, and during that time the wheels of the Government machine revolve as smoothly as ever. And why should those wheels run the risk of stopping if in Calcutta Government offices be not situated near the Government House?

**HITAVARTA,**  
May 28th, 1905.

The alleged contrariety between Lord Kitchener and General Elles.

28. Referring to the official news published from Simla contradicting the alleged rumour about a difference between Lord Kitchener and General Elles, the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 28th May observes that when people came to know of the difference which arose between Lord Kitchener and General Elles out of the army administration scheme, no one said that General Elles should or should not have the power to veto the proposals of the Commander-in-Chief. It was only a rumour. But the Government has cleverly concealed the fact. In our opinion the Government's contradiction will rather increase the suspicion of the public instead of removing it.

**HITAVARTA.**

Employment of more and more Europeans and Eurasians in the lower grades of the public service.

29. The same paper is sorry that the Government is showing a tendency to appoint Europeans and Eurasians to posts carrying low salaries. The Government of Bengal has issued a circular order directing that 30 per cent. of the posts worth Rs. 40 a month should be filled up by Europeans and (bastards) Eurasians.



The natives have been practically deprived of the higher posts in the Engineering and Police Departments, and this in spite of the Proclamation of 1857 and other documents securing the rights and privileges of the Indians.

30. The same paper enquires if Mr. Swan, Joint-Magistrate of Alipore, is a relation of the Joint-Magistrate of Agra, as the racial prejudice shown by the latter in deciding cases is in no way inferior to what the former has exhibited in deciding the tramway conductor's case. If the report of the *Agra Akhbar* from which the facts are taken be correct, the authorities ought to arrange for the medical treatment of the Joint-Magistrate of Agra, who has thought fit to believe the evidence of a military officer and punished Badri Dass with imprisonment for having insulted that officer. According to the same paper, the Military authorities are said to have written a letter to the trying officer asking him to award an exemplary punishment upon the accused. The Government should order a thorough enquiry to be made into the matter.

HITAVARTA.

In noticing this case, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 27th May observes that the spirit of the judgment goes to show that the natives must run away when they see a European approaching them, and they must not try to mix with him.

31. The same paper invites the attention of the Hon'ble Mr. Hewett to the desirability of reducing the charges of the telegraphic money-orders, which are considered too high to be availed of by the public.

HITAVARTA.

A suggestion for reducing the commission for telegraphic money-orders.

32. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 29th May asks why the Government is going to spend 22 thousand rupees to build a lunatic asylum at Berhampur for the temporary removal of lunatics there from Calcutta, when a spacious building is being already constructed at Ranchi for that purpose.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
May 29th, 1905.

A lunatic asylum at Berhampur.

### III.—LEGISLATION.

33. Seeing that Japan has made smoking tobacco by young men and children a criminal offence, the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 29th May asks if our Government could not pass a similar law for checking the growing evil of smoking by young students of this country.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
May 29th, 1905.

The habit of smoking among the Indian students.

### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

34. The *Khulnavasi* [Khulna] of the 20th May says that the lands in the three thanas of Kaliganj, Asasuni and Paikgacha in Khulna have this year been submerged by salt water and that consequently the local inhabitants apprehend a scarcity. An appeal is made to the Collector of Khulna to undertake the construction of embankments to protect these lands from the risk to which they are now liable of being often inundated by salt water. It is urged that owing to this cause, the lands in these parts have become so barren that they now yield hardly a four-anna crop. It is suggested that the local zamindars, talukdar and gantidars should form a working Committee to advance the money necessary for the construction of these protective works, and when they are finished, realize the cost rateably from the tenants whose interests are affected.

KHULNAVASI,  
May 20th, 1905.

Apprehended scarcity in portions of Khulna.

### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

35. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 23rd May writes as follows:—  
It is a good sign that the educated community in India have come to realize the importance of the uneducated mass in the field of politics, and are trying to take the latter along with them in their petitions to the Government.

CHARU MIHIR,  
May 23rd, 1905.

The national awakening in India.

Some time ago Lord Curzon said that so long as a public opinion was not formed in India, no amount of political agitation made by the educated community would be of any effect. At the present time we see signs of the birth of a public opinion in the country.



We do not know in what light Government will take this birth of public opinion in this country. We are often unable to comprehend the real purpose of our rulers.

It is well known how Lord Dufferin changed his mind in relation to the Indian National Congress.

In the beginning of British rule in India, Government was anxious to educate the people of the country. But after one and-a-half centuries have passed, how very anxious they are to suppress high education in the country. Not only this. So long as the people of the country kept silence in matters of administration, Government used to express sorrow at their indifference. But now they are incurring the displeasure of the authorities by criticizing their policy of administration.

Will not Government take up a similar attitude in regard to the present national awakening in India? The authorities have so long disregarded all public agitation in the country on the alleged ground that the vast mass of its population evinced no interest in it. Will they then hail this revival of national life?

There is not a meeker or more peaceful nation in the world than the Indians. They would under no circumstances turn out enemies to their Government. A national awakening in this country is not therefore likely to be attended with any cause of fear. Unlike the European, the Indian cannot even dream of deposing his Sovereign. Political revolution is against his nature. He considers it a sin to think evil of his Sovereign. Have not Englishmen learnt this after dealing with him for upwards of a century? Confidence begets confidence. The effect of distrust can never be happy. Government sometimes becomes uneasy on account of unfounded suspicions regarding Indians.

Ignorance is the source of all evils. The British Indian Empire cannot be safe so long as its subjects will remain ignorant and lifeless, while its foundation will be strengthened by their education and awakening.

36. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 25th May has the following:—

JYOTI.  
May 25th, 1906.

Lord Curzon as an awakener of national life in India.

In one sense, Lord Curzon is a great friend of India. If we review the English administration of India from the time of Lord Hastings downwards we shall find that whatever Lord Curzon's direct efforts for the good of this country, he has indirectly done more to stimulate the inward life of the Indian people than any other Viceroy.

We have been victims of delusion from the time of John Company. Particularly, when Lord Dalhousie's acts of oppression kindled the flame of revolt all over India and the British Cabinet and Parliament took the administration of the country into their own hands and gave utterance to gracious words of assurance, when the Queen's Proclamation was read out in the crowded Durbar in Delhi, the people felt that now at last they would have peace and they had nothing more to fear, that they would now be able to hold employment in security, that they would henceforward be at liberty to promote the country's welfare by petitioning and speechification. Now began that moral degeneracy, that sense of helpless dependence, that loss of energetic self-help and enterprise and devoted self-sacrifice which have lasted uninterrupted ever since. We forgot that we must rise by our own unaided efforts. From that day we became political beggars. The beggar's wallet is still slung from our shoulders and has left marks on our breasts and backs. Such is the force of habit that we cannot yet give up the cry:—"The Lord save Your Worship, give the poor beggar something to eat."

After the Sepoy Mutiny the English public made a great agitation over the matter. For the good government of India the Queen assumed its direct administration and Indian Viceroys began to be appointed by Parliament. We do not mean to say that there was nothing of magnanimity at the bottom of all this. But self-interest was the mainspring, the inspiring motive of all these changes. The Proclamation and the assumption of direct administration were both based on selfish considerations. The idea that so great an empire and so many millions of annual income should be lost through the folly of a mercantile company was unbearable. The Parliament therefore issued a liberal manifesto, made, with great ostentation, a declaration of its unselfishness before the world, and assumed the direct administration of India, guided in all this by one sole motive—that of retaining in perpetuity its Indian zamindari.



Dazzled as we were then by the light of English civilization, we could not see through all this. We had no conception whatever of the real state of things.

Thanks to Lord Curzon (may God grant him a long life), he has, after this long while, both by his words and his deeds, made the real truth clear to us.

So long we used to boast aloud of the Queen's Proclamation in crowded meetings. So long we used to cry aloud in various accents and intonations of whining:—"Why should we not obtain employment? How is it that we are objects of hatred? How is it that we do not obtain justice?" etc., etc. But none of us ever took note of a certain line in that Proclamation. Our leaders wanted to slur over that line. But our present Viceroy is extraordinarily clever. He has held it up before our eyes clear and naked. The cat is now out of the bag.

In the debate on the last Budget, His Lordship said:—

"I am familiar with both these documents (the Proclamation and the Act of 1833), and I also remember—which those who quote them sometimes forget—that the late Queen's words contained a qualification, not indeed modifying their generosity, but limiting their application by the necessary tests, firstly, of practical efficiency, and secondly, of personal fitness. These were the words:—"It is our will, that so far as may be, our subjects of whatever race or creed be freely and impartially admitted to offices in our service, the duties of which they may be qualified by their education, ability, and integrity duly to discharge."

But this "so far as may be" is an important qualification. Our political leaders left these words entirely out of account. But Lord Curzon has proved that these qualifying words have been strictly adhered to, and has made this clear to us by quoting the above line.

What this "so far as may be" really means is this—so far as may be compatible with keeping India in perpetual bondage to England. Unfortunate as we are we never saw this before.

Particularly, when a Viceroy like Lord Ripon conferred on us one or two privileges we held up our hands in rapture and exclaimed:—"Behold the generosity of England!" and took to eating and sleeping with our minds at perfect rest. We clean forgot that we had any sterner duty than petitioning.

But many thanks to Lord Curzon, he has made the truth clear to us. That truth may be unpleasant, nay, unpalatable, suggestive of utter despair, but it is still truth. So long we had been dupes of vain hopes, and our progress was impossible. But now that we have come to see the truth we shall be able, if we try, to secure our national advancement. We now see that our whining and holding out the wallet will do us no good. Lord Ripon and others were no doubt our well-wishers. But by their very efforts to do us good they sent our wideawake self-help to sleep. Now our sole trust must be in self-help, and we must now, once for all, renounce beggary.

We have to thank Lord Curzon, and Lord Curzon alone, for dispelling an error under which we have been for so long a time. May Lord Curzon live for ever! If three or four Viceroys like him come out to India, in succession, this downfallen people will be able to learn their duties.

37. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 25th May strongly criticises the conduct of Lord Curzon in relation to the question of the Kangra earthquake relief. When the catastrophe occurred, His Excellency, says the writer,

The question of earthquake relief.

was amusing himself in the Rampur State, so much so that he did not think it necessary to go to the spot and see the extent of the misery caused with his own eyes. People say that it was in order to hide this heartless and shameful conduct on his part that His Excellency dissuaded the Lord Mayor of London from opening a relief fund in England and gave him to understand that the loss and misery caused by the earthquake would be easily dealt with by subscriptions raised in India. All this may not be a true representation of the case. But it is certain that Lord Curzon telegraphed his prohibition to the Lord Mayor before gauging the extent of the damage caused by the earthquake. Nor was the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab less to blame in this matter. When he received information of the catastrophe he delayed too long in Lahore, and even after his visit to the Kangra valley he minimised the extent of the damage caused there. After this Sir David Mason plainly said, in a public meeting held in Lahore, that European pensioners and tea-planters were the

SANJIVANI,  
May 25th, 1905.



people who deserved special relief, a statement which alarmed the public not a little. All this had the effect of damping the spirit of charity of the people of this country, so that a man who had a mind to pay Rs. 1,000 paid only Rs. 100. It is the fault of the Government alone that the Indians have not subscribed the required 10 lakhs of rupees to the relief fund. In England also, although Lord Curzon has now appealed to English charity, not more than 1 lakh of rupees has been subscribed. This is the effect of checking the spontaneous outburst of charity in a country like England. Heart-felt thanks are, however, due to Sir Denzil Ibbetson for the manner in which he has now laid before the public the real situation in the Kangra valley. With a generous heart he is now begging charity for the helpless and destitute men, women and children of that place. Sir Andrew Fraser has appointed a Committee to raise subscriptions in Bengal. But His Honour should lose no time in coming down from Darjeeling and holding a public meeting in Calcutta for the purpose. In conclusion, the writer appeals to the readers of the *Sanjivani* to subscribe, without delay, anything that they can, even at the sacrifice of their pleasures and amusements, in order to relieve their suffering brethren in the Kangra Valley.

SOLTAN,  
May 26th, 1905.

38. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 26th May has the following:—

An Agriculturists' Loan Fund  
in Chittagong.

Agriculturists' Aid Society or Loan Fund:—

Moulvie Emdad Ali, a retired Inspector of Police, resident in Chittagong, has recently opened such a fund on a small scale for the benefit of the poorer Musalmans in his neighbourhood. He has to a certain extent succeeded in dissuading local agriculturists and labourers from habits of extravagance. And he has opened a loan fund from public subscription of a rupee or two per head. Loans are issued from this fund without interest to persons absolutely helpless or seriously distressed. The neighbouring *mandal* or *prodhan* acts as surety in such a case. If the debtor fails to pay back the principal, the *mandal* who stood his surety is bound to pay for him. A written contract on these lines is the condition precedent to the grant of all such loans. A year's working of this institution has already produced good results.

HITAVADI,  
May 26th, 1905.

39. We expected no better, says the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 26th May

Mr. Balfour on the Calcutta  
protest meeting.

with reference to the statement recently made by Mr. Balfour to the effect that he would take no action on the resolutions passed in the Calcutta

Town Hall protest meeting under the presidentship of Dr. Rash Behari Ghosh. In these days of pronounced Imperialism, it is improbable that the rulers will pay any heed to the people's protests. Besides this, considering the manner in which Lord Curzon has brought the authorities in England under his complete influence, and the love of power which is exhibited by the Conservative party, it is not at all likely that any attention will be paid to complaints made by the natives of India. But still we protest, because it is our duty to do so. We protest against the conduct of Mr. Balfour in the present case, and we shall consider ourselves amply remunerated for our labours if future Viceroys are prevented by this our agitation and protest from showing such indiscretion as Lord Curzon has done.

BHARAT MITRA,  
May 27th, 1905.

40. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 27th May notices the scene in

The Parliamentary crisis.

the House of Commons on Monday last and the proceedings of the following day, resulting in the fixing of the 30th instant for moving a vote of censure. The paper is of opinion that the defeat of the Government on that day would be followed by a dissolution of Parliament.

BHARAT MITRA.

41. The same paper notices the complaint of the *Urdu Akhbar* of

Opium gambling in the Punjab.

Ludhiana regarding the opium gambling which, that paper says, is ruining the people by thousands.

BHARAT MITRA.

42. Commenting upon the statement of a correspondent of the *Pioneer*

The feeling of the cultivating  
classes of India.

that the uninterrupted prevalence of famine and plague for the last few years in India has had the effect of creating dissatisfaction with British rule in the minds of the Indian cultivators, the same paper says that it is true that the people are despairing of their lives and hope of any happiness. But they attribute the above calamities to their past actions and



believe that in this iron age they cannot expect to enjoy any happiness. There are, however, some people who think that misery of the subjects is due to the misdeeds of their rulers, but the number of such people is very small. As to the statement of the correspondent of the *Pioneer* that politics is gradually finding its way among the cultivating classes of India, it is simple nonsense. They are too busy with the struggle for their daily bread to look to any other thing.

43. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 28th May has the following:—

The improvement of the condition of the agriculturists.

Various suggestions are nowadays being made to improve the condition of the agriculturists. Of these, three are generally recommended: first, by the improvement of agricultural methods; secondly, by improving the pecuniary condition of the agriculturists; and thirdly, by improving their knowledge.

Agricultural exhibitions are now being held in every district of Bengal, but they can do little good in a poor country like India, where the people have not the means to adopt the costly methods and implements exhibited at them.

Co-operative Credit Societies are being started in the country. Of course the object of establishing them is good, but it is doubtful if it is benefiting the agriculturists. We think no cultivator would be freely willing to take a loan from these Societies on the conditions made by Government, for a man who has enough to lend can get more interest by lending on his own account than through these Societies. Some good might certainly be done if Government were to lay out a large sum for the purpose, but Government has long ceased to give its helping hand to relieve the distress of its subjects.

Government had recently proposed to prepare books in dialects for the education of the rural population, but what a storm of protests against the proposal was raised by the people is known to all. Government is guided by its own whims in these matters and does not stop to consider the facts. The miserable condition of the agricultural class is known to everybody. It is therefore worth while to consider whether the education of that class is of paramount importance under the present conditions.

The improvement of the material condition of the people is of greater importance at present than the education of their children, so that they may have two meals a day instead of one.

44. The same paper is glad that the Indian residents of England are going to hold a meeting under the presidency of Mr. Dadadhai Naoroji to protest against the Convocation speech and other measures of Lord Curzon in India. The paper expects better results from this meeting than from those held in this country.

A protest meeting in England and Lord Curzon's Convocation speech.

45. The same paper says that England seems to have come closer to India than before, owing to the Official Secrets Bill. Simla and the Government House of Calcutta have become still nearer to the offices of the leading journals of England which publish facts long before they are allowed to be made known in this country. If the object be to stop information from being published before the due time, steps should be taken to see that these papers are prevented from receiving any information which should not be disclosed. Or was it only to oppress the native papers that the Secrets Act was passed?

Lord Curzon's administration.

46. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* [Chinsura] of the 28th May writes as follows:—

Lord Curzon's interpretation of the Queen's Proclamation.

Thanks to Lord Curzon, the Queen's Proclamation of 1858 has received a novel interpretation. That Proclamation, which was issued for the good of the Indians, gave them special privileges in regard to admission into the public service. But according to Lord Curzon, the real meaning of the Proclamation is that Indians will be taken in Government service only if they are considered fit for it. This explanation was unknown to the former Viceroys of India and other Indian statesmen. Lord Curzon is ready to ruin the Indians and close the public service against them. He has framed rules for the appointment to it of

HITAVARTA,  
May 28th, 1905.

HITAVARTA.

HITAVARTA.

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VARTAVAHA,  
May 28th, 1905.



Europeans and Eurasians on a more extensive scale. He is insulting the Queen's Proclamation; he considers it as waste paper. Qualifications are considered necessary in the case of Indians only, but nothing is required in the case of Europeans and Eurasians. Is this not race distinction?

The people of the country should combine to disabuse the mind of Lord Curzon of the false interpretation which he has given to the Proclamation. That Proclamation is the most valuable document which we possess, and any false interpretation of it cannot, if acted upon, fail to ruin us.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
May 29th, 1905.

47. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 29th May has the following in connection with the removal of idols from the premises of the Durbar Sahab at Amritsar:—

Removal of idols from the  
Darbar Sahab in Amritsar.

It is rumoured that the Manager of the Durbar Sahab, who has ordered the removal of the Hindu idols from the premises of the Durbar Sahab at Amritsar, is being backed by the local authorities, and that since the Manager is in league with them, the Local Government is paying no attention to the protest of the public against the action of the Manager. But in our opinion the rumour has no foundation. The whole blame lies with the Manager. So my Hindu brothers of the Punjab, you should now give up worshipping the Darbar Sahab. You should all combine and agitate, so that no Hindu may visit the Durbar Sahab. Anyone still going there should be censured. No protest meetings or appeals to Government are likely to do any good in the future, as they have done no good in the past.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD,  
May 17th, 1905.

The weather and the health of  
Balasore town.

48. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 17th May states that the temperature has risen very high and that the general health is good in Balasore town.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD.

49. The same paper has made itself a staunch advocate of the claims of the domiciled Bengali community in Orissa and is not at all satisfied with the appointment of one of its educated members to the Subordinate Executive Service. The writer wants more appointments for that community, utterly forgetting the proportion that community bears to the entire native community in Orissa.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,  
May 18th, 1905.

The weather and health of  
Balasore.

50. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 18th May states that there was no rain in the last week in Balasore and that the temperature there rose very high.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

51. The same paper says that cholera still prevails in Mayurbhanj and in that part of the Balasore district which falls under the Remuna outpost.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

52. The same paper speaks highly of the self-imposed rule, which the pleaders of Bagerhat and the Association for the Promotion of Industrial and Scientific Education among Indians. Education of Indians, and commends the same to the pleaders and mukhtars of Orissa for adoption. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 17th May also makes a somewhat similar statement.

GARJATABASINI,  
May 20th, 1905.

53. The Hindol correspondent of the *Garjatabasini* [Talcher] of the 20th May states that the general health of that State is good.

The health of Talcher.

GARJATABASINI.

54. The same correspondent says that a good many houses in Hindol garh and in village Rasol in that State were reduced to ashes by fire on the 6th instant.

A fire in Hindol.

GARJATABASINI.

55. The same paper speaks highly of the donation of Rs. 200 made by the Raja of Talcher towards the erection of a hostel in connection with the Ravenshaw College, Cuttack.

The Raja of Talcher's donation  
to the Ravenshaw College Hindu  
Hostel.



56. The same paper invites the attention of the Deputy Commissioner of Angul to the great want of drinking-water along the Dhenkanal-Angul Road, which causes great inconvenience and suffering to the travellers on that road and thereby mars the usefulness of the road to a large extent, and hopes that this general grievance will soon be redressed by excavating tanks and sinking wells at suitable places on the roadside. The existence of a few wells near the lodging-houses situated on the road is not sufficient to supply the wants of all the travellers.

GARJATRAHUL

JHARKHAND  
20th May 1905

57. The *Star of Utkal* [Cuttack] of the 20th May hears that at the last collection of Government land revenue at Cuttack the collection did not amount to half of the dues, and argues that, admitting the above fact to be correct, the peasants are either becoming poorer day after day or are suffering from scarcity of food. If the latter conclusion be true, it is time for remitting a portion of the land revenue.

STAR OF UTKAL,  
May 20th, 1905.

58. The same paper bears testimony to the kindness and good nature of Mr. Fischer, the Collector of Cuttack, and Mr. Growse, the Commissioner of Orissa, who deal leniently with the landlords, and states that but for their kind intervention many large proprietors of land would have been simply ruined.

STAR OF UTKAL

59. The same paper does not approve of the action of the District Magistrate of Cuttack in reducing considerably the number of gun-licenses in that district and suspects that the Magistrate has received an order from Government to reduce such licenses. The writer argues that the people of Cuttack are extremely loyal, and that there is not a single instance of the infringement of the terms of the license by the licensee. The outskirts of the Cuttack district abound in wild animals that do considerable damage. Even at the foot of the Magistrate's Court crocodiles defy the marksmanship of many high officers, who sit there every day. Only last year there was a great tiger scare in the town of Cuttack. A great portion of the land revenue is sent from mufassal to the town in charge of peons, who stand in need of fire-arms. The zamindars must have guns to protect themselves and their property. All these considerations establish the fact that the number of gun-licenses in Cuttack must not be reduced in any way.

STAR OF UTKAL

60. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 20th May states that the temperature has risen high and showers of rain accompanied with winds fall occasionally.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
May 20th, 1905.

61. The Deuli correspondent of the same paper says that chicken-pox has made its appearance in that place.

UTKALDIPIKA.

62. The Sankhatras correspondent of the same paper says that in Upar-Usuma in the Cuttack district large numbers of cattle are dying of foot-and-mouth disease.

UTKALDIPIKA.

63. The Jajpur correspondent of the same paper says that sufficient showers of rain fell on the 9th, 10th and the 12th instant in that subdivision of the Cuttack district and greatly helped agricultural operations, and that the rise of water in the beds of several rivers in that subdivision indicated that there was sufficient rainfall at the sources of those rivers.

UTKALDIPIKA.

64. Referring to the proposal of the authorities to bring the Raja of Nayagarh to Cuttack and keep him there for a short time for his improvement, the same paper states that a short stay at Cuttack will no doubt do him great good and that the Raja need not fear anything from such a benevolent proposal.

UTKALDIPIKA.

65. The same paper is glad to notice that certain reforms are going to be introduced into the constitution and proceedings of the *Mukti Mandap Sabha* (an Association that is consulted in social and religious matters by Hindu society) at Puri, at the instance of the Manager of the Puri

UTKALDIPIKA.



UTKALDIPKA.  
May 20th 1905.

temple, backed by some wise and learned Pandits, and observes that this is a move in the right direction and will do much good to Hindu society.

66. The same paper bitterly complains of the oppressions practised by the tahsil panchayats in different places in Orissa and observes that this is due to the want of proper supervision on the part of the Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Police.

A complaint against tahsil panchayats in Orissa.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

*The 3rd June 1905.*



CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 22 of 1905.

# REPORT (PART II)

ON

## NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 3rd June 1905.

### CONTENTS.

	PAGE.		PAGE.
<b>I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.</b>		<b>(f)—Questions affecting the Land—</b>	
The Afghan question ... ..	195	Nil.	
The Shah's visit to Russia ... ..	ib.	<b>(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation—</b>	
The Anglo-Afghan Treaty ... ..	ib.	A broken bridge in the Chaudanga subdivision ... 198	
The Czar and the Dalai Lama ... ..	ib.	The District Traffic Superintendent, Asansol ... ib.	
<b>II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.</b>		<b>(h)—General—</b>	
<b>(a)—Police—</b>		A railway grievance ... .. ib.	
Bhagalpur Police Training School ... ..	196	The Sub-Registrar of Baraset ... .. 198	
<b>(b)—Working of the Courts—</b>		The Carlyle circular ... .. 199	
The tramway assault case ... ..	196	Ditto ... .. ib.	
Aggravating the law's delay ... ..	ib.	An obnoxious notification ... .. ib.	
The case of Lieutenant Ford ... ..	ib.	The Arms Act ... .. ib.	
<b>(c)—Jails—</b>		The Government Resolution on the Bolt case ... 200	
Jail administration in Sylhet ... ..	196	Mr. Carey ... .. ib.	
<b>(d)—Education—</b>		Ditto ... .. ib.	
Mr. Pedler's latest feat ... ..	197	<b>III.—LEGISLATION.</b>	
<b>(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—</b>		Nil.	
Plague at Bhowanipur ... ..	197	<b>IV.—NATIVE STATES.</b>	
Borough Councils ... ..	ib.	Nil.	
A grievance ... ..	ib.	<b>V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.</b>	
The Manicktolla Municipality ... ..	198	Nil.	
Reassessment of holdings by the Patna Municipality ... ..	ib.	<b>VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.</b>	
		The dispute between Lord Kitchener and the Government ... 200	
		Appointment of Assistant Engineers ... .. ib.	
		The Indian Budget in Parliament ... .. 201	







## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

710. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that if the Commander-in-Chief's extensive scheme for strengthening the British position in and near Afghanistan is carried into execution, Lord Kitchener would be viewed by the people of this country in the light of a worse enemy than the Russians whom he is so anxious to repel. But in this struggle for supremacy in Afghanistan, do not the Afghans themselves count for anything? Their hatred and contempt for the Western nations are supreme, and they are quite confident that they could far excel the brilliant achievements of the puny Japs. In these circumstances, would it not be more expedient to allow Russia and Afghanistan to settle their own accounts? Then there is another important factor to be reckoned with, namely, India. It may be a good policy to strengthen the British position in Afghanistan, but the better policy would be to win over the three hundred millions in India, for is it possible that they could look on with indifference at a war between England and Russia in Afghanistan? Let England do what is most likely to safeguard her interests, but do not impoverish India and so deepen the prevailing discontent.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
23rd May 1905.

711. It were idle, writes the *Bengalee*, to say that the visit of the Shah of Persia to Russia is destitute of any political significance. If Russia really harbours the design of invading India as soon as the war in the Far East is brought to a termination, glorious or inglorious, she is well aware that the success of her project depends largely on the co-operation of the Persians, and hence she must take the Shah into her confidence. The Premier's recent speech dealing with the problem of Indian defence seems to indicate that His Majesty's Government are in possession of certain information pointing to a projected invasion of India by Russia and this latest development seems to confirm the impression.

BENGALÉE,  
25th May 1905.

712. The *Bengalee* is surprised to learn that the Anglo-Afghan Treaty is merely a renewal of the compact that existed between the Government of India and the late Amir. Such being the case, it is difficult to understand why the Indian taxpayer's money was frittered away on this useless mission. Can it be, however, that there is in existence a secret treaty like the famous or rather infamous Salisbury-Schonvaloff Memorandum or like the duplicate treaty by means of which Omir Chand was silenced by Clive, only to be deceived later? If there is no such secret treaty in existence between England and Afghanistan, it is simply inconceivable that Mr. Dane should have been deputed merely to obtain a formal renewal of an existing treaty. It is, however, possible that the Government had other objects in view which their representative failed to accomplish, and hence there is no mention made of them in the signed agreement. If this assumption is correct, the Kabul Mission has been almost a complete failure.

BENGALÉE,  
27th May 1905.

713. The *Bengalee* draws a parallel between the positions of the Czar of Russia and the Dalai Lama of Tibet. Both have been the victims of adversity, and the future of the one is as gloomy and uncertain as the future of the other. Both both look upon England as the real cause of their troubles. Under these circumstances it is not surprising that Russia is sending a sympathetic deputation to the Dalai Lama. It remains to be seen whether the Jingo Press will make any political capital out of this.

BENGALÉE,  
27th May 1905.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

714. The *Bengalee* writes that if the story of a correspondent is correct, the life of a police cadet at Bhagalpur is very far from being an enviable one. His mornings are devoted to parade, drill, and gymnastics, etc., and after this he is employed on investigations which take him several hours thus interfering with his regular meals. This is the programme for the day. At night he has to patrol the town from 11 P.M. to 3 A.M., and occasionally has to trudge several miles to ascertain

BENGALÉE,  
24th May 1905.



the whereabouts of bad characters. What, however, seems to be a real grievance is that while the senior cadets who joined the school in January last are enjoying a long summer vacation, the junior students have been refused a fortnight's leave. The heat is unbearable and the cadets really need a holiday, seeing that some of them are reported to be suffering from dysentery, eruptions, fever, and even hysteria.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

BENGALIEE,  
18th May 1905.

715. The *Bengaliee* is glad that the Sessions Judge of Alipore has set aside the sentence of imprisonment passed upon the conductor Raza and considerably lessened the fine imposed by the lower Court. It is remarkable that, notwithstanding the statement made by Captain Ronayne to the effect that he did not want to proceed with the case as he was in the wrong, the Joint-Magistrate should have sent the accused to jail with hard labour.

BENGALIEE,  
18th May 1905.

716. The *Bengaliee* writes that the method devised by Mr. Marr, the Sub-divisional Officer of Serajgunge, Pabna, for reducing his criminal work, not unfrequently amounts to a positive denial of justice to aggrieved parties. He has originated the practice of receiving petitions only once a fortnight; but even this might be allowed if he would only take down *ejahar* immediately after receiving the petitions and pass his orders thereon. He, however, appears to be extremely dilatory in taking down *ejahar*, and rarely disposes of more than one or two petitions a day. The public are thus put to a great deal of inconvenience. Another complaint that is made against this Sub-divisional Officer is that he frequently resorts to section 203 in disposing of petitions.

Latterly there has been an alarming increase of crime in the subdivision, and it is earnestly hoped that Mr. Marr will abandon the practice he is following at present in the disposal of criminal work.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
23rd May 1905.

717. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* publishes the particulars of the following sensational case. It appears that Lieutenant Ford, of the Welsh Fusiliers, instituted criminal proceedings against Babu Badri Prasad, a photographer of Agra, for using abusive language towards him. The accused produced witnesses who proved that the complainant's case was unsupportable, but nevertheless the Joint-Magistrate sentenced the former to 10 days' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 100, urging in justification of his severe sentence that the accused was a rich man and so a mere fine would have no deterrent effect! This, says the journal, is one of the benefits of being a military officer and a white man. While, indeed, the case was *sub judice*, the trying Magistrate received letters from the complainant's superior urging upon the Court the necessity of inflicting exemplary punishment on "natives"! Babu Badri Prasad filed an appeal before the Sessions Judge, who upheld the fine, but commuted the sentence of imprisonment to one day's simple imprisonment. It is a wonder that Indians, knowing as they do that a Court of law will never administer strict justice in a case between an Indian and a European, persist in mixing with Europeans instead of shunning them. This case is analogous to the notorious tramways assault case, and both accused have yet to appeal to the High Court.

(c)—Jails.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
26rd May 1905.

718. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that the *Paridarshak* of Sylhet makes some serious allegations against the local jail administration. Prisoners employed in working the oil-pressing machines are required to perform the Herculean task of producing 3½ seers of mustard oil daily, and the result is that many a weak prisoner breaks down after three or four days' work. It is reported that on the 13th May, two prisoners fell down insensible while working the machine



and on the 7th April last, another prisoner is said to have died from the effects of the heavy labour imposed upon him. These allegations are too serious to be passed over and demand a most searching inquiry. The journal believes that it is not the jail management, but the rules that are at fault.

(d)—Education.

719. The *Behar Herald* writes that the new rules for admission into Government schools and colleges that have been framed by Mr. Pedler are not only annoying, but positively insulting to the public, coming as they do so soon after His Excellency the Viceroy's Convocation address. Mr. Pedler has laid down that a father or guardian wishing to have his ward admitted into a school must personally accompany the boy and bring with him a respectable witness. Such a rule is likely to cause no end of trouble, especially to men situated in humble stations in life. Then, again, if the guardian of the boy is a lady, is she expected to dance attendance at the school or will the Admission Register be brought to her in order that she may affix her signature to it? Why is it necessary that the guardian should state his income and its source or sources? Does the Director intend to fix the scale of fees accordingly, or is he merely trying to make work easy for the income-tax assessor? Mr. Pedler may have been a good professor, but he is certainly no administrator, and the Government instead of granting him an extension of service should grant him an extension of leave!

BIHAR HERALD,  
20th May 1905.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

720. The *Bengalee* seriously complains of the continued neglect and dilatoriness on the part of the municipal staff at Bhowanipore. Last Thursday a death from plague occurred in a house in Chuckrabar Road, and although prompt information was sent to the Plague Department, the premises have not yet been disinfected. Nor is this all. There appears to have been great mortality among the rats in this locality, but owing to defective conservancy arrangements, their carcasses are left lying on the roadside for days and so poison the atmosphere. These circumstances disclose how much the municipal staff is in need of proper supervision.

BENGALÉE,  
18th May 1905.

721. Referring to Sir Andrew Fraser's pronouncement in regard to the Borough Councils scheme, that *prima facie* it was undoubtedly desirable to decentralise, the *Indian Nation* writes that this was ignored when the suburbs were amalgamated with Calcutta in 1888. It was also ignored when the number of Municipal Commissioners was halved by the present Act, and when, by the present Act also, the power of the municipal executive and the degree of Government control were enlarged, and the inclusion of Howrah in the municipal administration was suggested. The new scheme is an admission that the system introduced by the Mackenzie Act is a failure. It must have been felt that the needs of the rate-payers were not adequately known or met. Borough Councils may or may not remove the want according to circumstances. The journal, however, is of opinion that a more natural and effective reform would be to restore the original number of Municipal Commissionerships and, secondly, to vest the Corporation with its old powers instead of having three co-ordinate authorities. This would indeed be a much cheaper system than the one proposed.

INDIAN NATION,  
22nd May 1905.

722. A correspondent writing to the *Indian Mirror* complains that the removal of the *punkahs* from the Assessor's Department of the Calcutta Corporation has been a source of considerable inconvenience to the poor clerks, who have to work from morning to a very late hour in the evening. The writer insists that the *punkahs* should not have been removed so long as there was any doubt as to when the electric fans would be put up, as it is next to impossible to work owing to the excessive heat. The clerks have brought the matter to the notice of the Acting Chairman, but all to no purpose, and it now remains with the city fathers who constitute the General Committee to see that suitable arrangements are made without delay.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
24th May 1905.



INDIAN MIRROR,  
25th May 1905.

723. A correspondent writing to the *Indian Mirror* complains that no heed is paid to the grave protests of the rate-payers concerning the unsatisfactory condition of the town. The drains and roads continue to remain in an insanitary condition and no lamps and hydrants exist where they are indispensably necessary. Recently a complaint was made to the Chairman drawing his attention to the defective state of a drain in Talpukur Road, and in spite of earnest and repeated representations nothing has so far been done. Lastly, the writer complains of the arbitrary way in which assessments are made and objections are heard, and hopes that these municipal vagaries will not escape the attention of the higher authorities.

BEHAR HERALD,  
27th May 1905.

724. The *Behar Herald* again protests against the arbitrary and illegal way in which assessments are being enhanced by the Patna Municipality, although the value of house property has been considerably reduced owing to the frightful ravages of plague. By the establishment of Appeal Committees composed of men of integrity, the law has provided a wholesome check against any abuse of power by the assessor, but it is to be feared that the present Chairman of the Municipality is likely to weaken this restraint by the favourable view he has taken of the note submitted by the assessor protesting against the reversal of his assessments. The Chairman has actually been present when appeals are being heard. This is nothing short of a slur on the Appeal Committee and is likely to deprive that body of its independence. It is earnestly to be hoped that the Chairman will desist from taking any steps that are likely to interfere with the proceedings of the Appeal Committee.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

INDIAN MIRROR,  
21st May 1905.

425. The *Indian Mirror* writes that the broken condition of the bridge over a canal near the late Bhalai pore indigo concern has given rise to serious complaint on the part of the inhabitants of the Chuadanga subdivision. The bridge is totally impassable and people have to wade through the canal in order to get across. The journal draws the urgent attention of the Collector of the district and the Subdivisional Officer to this matter, and trusts that the bridge will be repaired at an early date, as in its present condition it seriously endangers human life.

BENGALIEE,  
24th May 1905.

726. The *Bengalee's* Asansol correspondent was surprised to read in the *Bengalee* of the 17th instant that the District Traffic Superintendent of Asansol was said to be unsympathetic and positively discourteous in dealing with his Indian subordinates. This is by no means the case, says the writer, and not a whisper of such an insinuation has even been breathed by any of the clerks in his office. On the contrary, he is a very nice gentleman, though occasionally strict in dealing with his subordinates.

BENGALIEE,  
28th May 1905.

727. The *Bengalee* writes that in spite of the earnest and repeated protests of the public, there is still a deplorable want of accommodation in the 115 Up-train which reaches Balighatta from Diamond Harbour at 9-48 A.M. Most of the passengers by this train are men who have to attend offices and who do not therefore avail themselves of a later train for fear of being delayed. They have thus to travel by this already overcrowded train and the inconvenience they are put to is very great. The evil is aggravated by the new system of week-end concession tickets and the scene at the booking-office is simply indescribable. The journal asks the District Traffic Superintendent to consider the convenience of the public in so small a matter and to provide the necessary accommodation.

(h)—*General.*

BENGALIEE,  
18th May 1905.

728. The *Bengalee* draws attention to the vagaries of the Sub-Registrar of Baraset, as set forth in the petition submitted by Babu Hari Mohan Bose to the Inspector-General of Registration. The petitioner complains that he appeared before the Sub-Registrar in April last to register some documents, but was told to come earlier the next day, although documents tendered about 2½ hours after his, that is, at 3-30 P.M., were duly registered. The petitioner, however, did as he was



ordered and attended at 11-30 A.M. the next day, but was told by the Sub-Registrar that the documents should have been presented before 10 A.M. The former represented that as he was employed in a mercantile office he could not easily, get leave and that as he had already lost a day, he asked the Sub-Registrar to register the deed that day, especially as the other parties resided at a distance of six miles from Baraset. The Sub-Registrar was obdurate, and in despair the petitioner asked to be informed of the prescribed hour for the presentation of documents. In reply he was told that there was no fixed hour for this, but that deeds presented before 10 A.M. would be registered. On the following day the petitioner again appeared—this time at 10-30 A.M., but the Sub-Registrar refused to receive his deeds, saying that as he (the petitioner) had talked of representing the matter to higher authority, he had better do so first. And so the deeds have not been registered at all. The journal is confident that the Inspector-General of Registration will take the necessary action in the matter.

729. Apart from the merits or demerits of the Carlyle circular, writes the *Indian Nation*, the question that naturally arises is, why have not the Government thought fit to

The Carlyle circular.

publish it? The public were entirely ignorant of the object of the Conference of Commissioners that was held at Darjeeling in October last, but now that their deliberations have ended and the Government has come to definite conclusions which have been embodied in an important circular, a strict secrecy is still being observed! Is this the way in which the Government take the people into their confidence? The circular itself, however, is a document dealing in platitudes, but the real essence of it lies in the latent suggestions relative to the exaltation of the executive.

INDIAN NATION,  
22nd May 1905.

730. The *Hindoo Patriot* cannot find any justification for the adverse criticism that has been showered on the so-called Carlyle circular. This document instead of

*Ibid.*

threatening, as is generally supposed, the judicial independence of the Bench, draws a clear line of demarcation between the executive and judicial functions, wholly separating the one from the other by placing District Judges absolutely beyond the control of Commissioners. This point has been brought out so prominently that it is quite curious how it was overlooked. Much powder and shot have uselessly been expended, and it is time that a more sensible view were taken of a well-intentioned circular.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
23rd May 1905.

731. The *Indian Empire* points to the recent notification reserving a certain percentage of appointments in the Board of Revenue for Europeans and Eurasians, as another

An obnoxious notification.

instance of how solemn pledges made to the Indian people are deliberately broken. Almost immediately after Sir Andrew Fraser became Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, he began to show his antipathy to the children of the soil by depriving them of appointments which had hitherto been held by them and treating them as close preserves for Europeans and Eurasians. In abolishing the competitive test, His Honour assured the people that Government would not fail to take into account the merits of candidates, but in the face of such resolutions as the above, how can the Indians hope for justice? By its various acts and measures, the present Government of Bengal has made itself most unpopular, and a strong public opinion is necessary to check the policy inaugurated by the *ex-ruler* of a backward province.

INDIAN EMPIRE,  
23rd April 1905.

732. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that so marked is the tendency on the part of District Magistrates to restrict the granting of gun licenses, that it appears almost as if

The Arms Act.

Government had issued confidential instructions to this effect. In Mymensingh a certain individual wanted to change his muzzle-loading gun for a breech-loading one and so applied for the necessary license, which was refused on the ground that there were already too many breech-loading guns in the district! Was the Magistrate afraid lest the owner of this class of weapon might attack the local authorities and loot the treasury? The Hon'ble Babu Bhupendranath Bose was to have asked a question relating to the grant of gun licenses, but withdrew it on the assurance of Government that the grievance complained of would be removed. No action, however, appears yet to have been taken.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
23rd May 1905.



AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
25th May 1905.

733. Referring to the wholly undeserved and unjust strictures passed on Mr. Heard, the Subdivisional Officer of Kishanganj, in connection with the Rolt case, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* observes that the recent Government

The Government Resolution on the Rolt case.

Resolution on the subject will have a most demoralising effect on District Officers, who will take great care in future not to treat a European accused in the same way as an Indian accused. The journal considers that the Lieutenant-Governor should issue another Resolution discussing the question as to who should pay Mr. Rolt his heavy compensation—the general tax-payers, the Khagra estate, or the officers at whose instance he was put on his trial and acquitted. Truly the rulers are not in touch with the people, for the latter know the whole truth about the Rolt case, and they are thus in a position to laugh at the intensely amusing Government Resolution, which is nothing more or less than a river of whitewash.

BENGALUR,  
25th May 1905.

734. The *Bengalee* writes that the punishment inflicted on Mr. Carey is by no means a light one, especially for a Civilian, but in justice to the Lieutenant-Governor it must

Mr. Carey.

be said that His Honour's patience has been entirely exhausted. Sweet are the uses of adversity, and it is to be hoped that the redoubtable Mr. Carey will even now learn a lesson and behave in a becoming way to the people among whom his lot may be cast. The country will not fail to take note of that strong sense of justice which impelled the Lieutenant-Governor to visit Mr. Carey's delinquencies with such exemplary punishment.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
25th May 1905.

735. Mr. Carey's reckless and discreditable career, writes the *Hindoo Patriot*, has at last brought on him the punishment

*Ibid.*

he richly deserved, and the Government cannot be sufficiently thanked for appointing Mr. Carey to a subordinate charge, as he will then not be in a position to terrorise the people. It is earnestly hoped that his degradation from a District to a Joint-Magistrate will have a sobering effect upon him and teach him to behave towards those with whom he may come in contact in a way befitting his position.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

AMRITA BAZAR,  
PATRIKA,  
22nd May 1905.

736. Referring to the dispute that is going on at present between Lord Kitchener and the Government of India, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that it has been very

The dispute between Lord Kitchener and the Government.

pertinently pointed out that, while the power of the Commander-in-Chief in England is being curtailed, the tendency in India is to strengthen the position of its military leader more and more. It is currently reported that Lord Kitchener wishes for ten millions sterling, one-seventh of a year's revenue of India and equivalent to twenty millions in an English budget, for distributing more troops along the frontier. The interest that Indians have in this matter is purely a financial one, and if Lord Kitchener carries the day, despite the opposition of the Government of India, then there is no doubt that his scheme will prove even more disastrous than the Russian invasion it wishes to guard against.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
22nd May 1905.

737. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that a Resolution published in the *India Gazette* of the 18th February last, provides

Appointment of Assistant Engineers.

for the appointment as Assistant Engineers in the Public Works Department of India for the year 1905 of not less than eleven men from British subjects of *European descent* "in addition to those to be made from the Royal Indian Engineering College at Cooper's Hill." It is true that this notification applies to the present year only, but one can clearly see that it is the thin end of the wedge for the permanent exclusion of Indians from the Public Works Department. They could formerly enter this department through Cooper's Hill, but now that this College has been abolished, they have no other means of securing these appointments. Nevertheless, Lord Curzon has the hardihood to assert that the Indians are being treated with unexampled liberality by the British Government! It would be a most flagrant act of injustice if the Secretary of State did not make some provision for the appointment of natives of India as Assistant Engineers. Truly, no nation has ever been expelled so ruthlessly from the public service of their country as the Indians.



738. The *Bengalee* writes that the practice of taking up the Indian Budget for discussion at the close of the Parliamentary Session, when most of the members have quitted London, is a scandalous one and should be abandoned in justice to this country. The presentation of the Indian Budget earlier than usual will at least ensure a more adequate discussion, and for this small mercy the Indians will be profoundly thankful to the Prime Minister, who has done so little to deserve their gratitude.

BENGALURU,  
27th May 1905.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENL.  
OF POLICE, L. P.

WRITERS' BUILDINGS,  
The 3rd June 1905.

F. C. DALY,  
Asst. to the Insp.-Genl. of Police, L. P.



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